1	SENATE BILL NO. 518
2	INTRODUCED BY J. ELLIOTT
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4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING ANNUAL OR BIENNIAL REGISTRATION AS AN
5	ALTERNATIVE TO ONE-TIME-ONLY REGISTRATION, LICENSING, AND IMPOSITION OF THE FEE IN LIEU
6	OF TAX AND CERTAIN OTHER FEES PAYABLE ON CERTAIN BOATS AND OTHER WATERCRAFT,
7	${\tt SNOWMOBILES}, {\tt OFF-HIGHWAYVEHICLES}, {\tt TRAVELTRAILERS}, {\tt MOTORCYCLES}, {\tt ANDQUADRICYCLES};$
8	PROVIDING THAT THE REGISTRATION, LICENSING, AND IMPOSITION OF THE FEES IS TO BE DONE
9	ANNUALLY, BIENNIALLY, OR ON A ONE-TIME BASIS AT THE REQUEST OF AN OWNER; AMENDING
10	SECTIONS 15-1-122, 23-2-512, 23-2-515, 23-2-516, 23-2-517, 23-2-616, 23-2-626, 23-2-803, 23-2-817,
11	61 - 3 - 303, 61 - 3 - 311, 61 - 3 - 317, 61 - 3 - 321, 61 - 3 - 332, 61 - 3 - 523, 61 - 3 - 526, AND 61 - 3 - 527, MCA; AND PROVIDING
12	A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."
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14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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16	Section 1. Section 15-1-122, MCA, is amended to read:
17	"15-1-122. Fund transfers. (1) There is transferred from the state general fund to the adoption services
18	account, provided for in 42-2-105, \$36,764 for fiscal year 2003. Beginning with fiscal year 2004, the amount of
19	the transfer must be increased by 10% in each succeeding fiscal year.
20	(2) There is transferred from the state general fund to the department of transportation state special
21	revenue nonrestricted account the following amounts:
22	(a) \$75,000 in fiscal year 2003;
23	(b) \$0 in fiscal years 2004 and 2005;
24	(c) (<u>a)</u> \$3,050,205 in fiscal year 2006; and
25	(d)(b) in each succeeding fiscal year, the amount in subsection (2)(e) (2)(a), increased by 1.5% in each
26	succeeding fiscal year.
27	(3) For each fiscal year, there is transferred from the state general fund to the accounts, entities, or
28	recipients indicated the following amounts:
29	(a) to the motor vehicle recycling and disposal program provided for in Title 75, chapter 10, part 5:
30	(i) \$2 for each new application for a motor vehicle title and for each transfer of a motor vehicle title for
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1 which a fee is paid pursuant to 61-3-203; and

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- (ii) \$1 for each passenger car or truck under 8,001 pounds GVW that is registered for licensing pursuant to Title 61, chapter 3, part 3, and \$5 for each permanently registered light vehicle. Fifteen cents of each dollar must be used for the purpose of reimbursing the hired removal of abandoned vehicles during the calendar year following the calendar year in which the fee was paid. Any portion of the 15 cents not used for abandoned vehicle removal reimbursement during the calendar year following its payment must be used as provided in 75-10-532.
- 8 (b) to the noxious weed state special revenue account provided for in 80-7-816:
 - (i) \$1 in fiscal year 2006 for each year that the fee is paid and, in each subsequent or, beginning in fiscal year 2006, \$2.75 for a permanent fee payment for each off-highway vehicle for which the fee in lieu of tax is paid, as provided for in 23-2-803; and
 - (ii) for vehicles registered or reregistered pursuant to 61-3-321:
- (A) \$1.50 for each registered light vehicle, truck or bus weighing less than 1 ton, logging truck, vehicle
 weighing more than 1 ton, and motor home; and
 - (B) \$1.50 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent for each year registered or, beginning in fiscal year 2006, \$3.65 for a permanent registration for each motorcycle and quadricycle; and
 - (C) \$7.50 for each permanently registered light vehicle;
- 18 (c) to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks:
 - (i) \$2.50 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent for each year registered or, beginning in fiscal year 2006, \$14.50 for a permanent registration for each motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft receiving a certificate of number under 23-2-512, with 20% of the amount received to be used to acquire and maintain pumpout equipment and other boat facilities;
 - (ii) \$5 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent for each year registered or, beginning in fiscal year 2006, \$19 for a permanent registration for each snowmobile registered under 23-2-616, with 50% of the amount to be used for enforcing the purposes of 23-2-601, 23-2-602, 23-2-611, 23-2-614 through 23-2-619, 23-2-621, 23-2-622, 23-2-626, 23-2-631 through 23-2-635, and 23-2-641 through 23-2-644 and 50% of the amount designated for use in the development, maintenance, and operation of snowmobile facilities:
 - (iii) \$1 for each duplicate snowmobile registration decal issued under 23-2-617;
- 29 (iv) \$5 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent for each year for which a decal is issued or, 30 beginning in fiscal year 2006, \$13.25 for a permanent decal for each off-highway vehicle decal issued under



23-2-804 and each off-highway vehicle duplicate decal issued under 23-2-809, with 40% of the money used to enforce the provisions of 23-2-804 and 60% of the money used to develop and implement a comprehensive program and to plan appropriate off-highway vehicle recreational use;

- (v) to the state special revenue fund established in 23-1-105, \$3.50 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent for each year registered or, beginning in fiscal year 2006, \$8 for a permanent registration for each recreational vehicle, motor home, and travel trailer registered or reregistered and subject to the fee in 61-3-321;
- (vi) an amount equal to 20% of the funds collected pursuant to 23-2-518 to be deposited in the motorboat account to be used as provided in 23-2-533; and
- (vii) to the state special revenue fund established in 23-1-105, \$4 for each passenger car or truck under 8,001 pounds GVW registered for licensing pursuant to 61-3-321(11)(a), with \$3.50 of the money used for state parks, 25 cents used for fishing access sites, and 25 cents used for the operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City;
- (d) to the state veterans' cemetery account, provided for in 10-2-603, \$10 for each veteran's license plate subject to the fee in 61-3-459;
- (e) to the supplemental benefits for highway patrol officers' retirement account provided for in 19-6-709,25 cents for each motor vehicle registered, other than:
- (i) trailers or semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional registration agreement; and
 - (ii) vehicles registered under 61-3-527, 61-3-530, and 61-3-562;
- (f) 25 cents a year for each registered vehicle and \$1.25 for each permanently registered vehicle subject to the fee in 61-3-321(6) for deposit in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the senior citizens and persons with disabilities transportation services account provided for in 7-14-112;
 - (g) to the search and rescue account provided for in 10-3-801:
- (i) \$2 a year for each vessel subject to the search and rescue surcharge fee in 23-2-517;
- 25 (ii) \$2 a year for each snowmobile [subject to the search and rescue surcharge] fee in 23-2-615(1)(b)
 26 and 23-2-616(3); and
- 27 (iii) \$2 a year for each off-highway vehicle [subject to the search and rescue surcharge] fee in 23-2-803; 28 and
- 29 (h) 50 cents a year for each vehicle subject to the fee in 61-3-321(7) for deposit in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the veterans' services account provided for in 10-2-112(1).



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(4) For each fiscal year, the department of justice shall provide to the department of revenue a count of the vehicles required for the calculations in subsection (3). The department of justice shall provide a separate count of vehicles that are permanently registered pursuant to 61-3-562. A permanently registered vehicle may be included in vehicle counts only in the year in which the vehicle is registered or reregistered. Transfer amounts in each fiscal year must be based on vehicle counts in the most recent calendar year for which vehicle information is available. Vehicles that are permanently registered may be included in vehicle counts only in the year in which the vehicles are registered by new owners.

(5) The amounts transferred from the general fund to the designated recipient must be appropriated as state special revenue in the general appropriations act for the designated purposes."

Section 2. Section 23-2-512, MCA, is amended to read:

"23-2-512. Identifying number. (1) The owner of each motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft requiring numbering by this state shall file an application for number in the office of the county treasurer in the county where the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft is owned, on forms prepared and furnished by the department of justice. The application must be signed by the owner of the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft and be accompanied by a fee of \$3.50 a year in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, or, for a permanent certificate of number, \$15.50. Any alteration, change, or false statement contained in the application renders the certificate of number void. Upon receipt of the application in approved form, the county treasurer shall issue to the applicant a certificate of number prepared and furnished by the department of justice, stating the number assigned to the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft and the name and address of the owner.

- (2) The applicant, upon the filing of the application, shall pay to the county treasurer the fee in lieu of tax required under 23-2-517 for a motorboat 10 feet in length or longer, a sailboat 12 feet in length or longer, or a personal watercraft before the application for certification or, if applicable, recertification may be accepted by the county treasurer. If the applicant is applying for 2 years, the fee in lieu of tax must be doubled.
- (3) If the ownership of a motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft changes, a new application form with the certification fee must be filed within a reasonable time with the county treasurer and a new certificate of number assigned in the same manner as provided for in an original assignment of number.
- (4) If an agency of the United States government has in force a comprehensive system of identification numbering for motorboats in the United States, the numbering system employed pursuant to this part by the



1 department of justice must be in conformity.

- (5) A certificate of number and a registration decal issued under this part are may be effective for either 1 or 2 years or may be a permanent certificate and registration unless terminated or discontinued in accordance with the provisions of this part. A 1-year or 2-year certificate and registration decal expire on December 31 of the last year for which fees were paid.
- (6) If ownership is transferred, the purchaser shall notify the county treasurer within a reasonable time of the acquisition of all or any part of the purchaser's interest, other than the creation of a security interest, in a motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft numbered in this state or of the loss, theft, destruction, or abandonment of the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft. The transfer, loss, theft, destruction, or abandonment terminates the certificate of number for the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft. Recovery from theft or transfer of a part interest that does not affect the owner's right to operate the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft does not terminate the certificate of number.
- (7) A holder of a certificate of number shall notify the county treasurer within a reasonable time if the holder's address no longer conforms to the address appearing on the certificate and shall furnish the county treasurer with the new address. The department of justice may provide by rule for the surrender of the certificate bearing the former address and its replacement with a certificate bearing the new address or the alteration of an outstanding certificate to show the new address of the holder.
- (8) (a) The number assigned must be painted on or attached to each outboard side of the forward half of the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft or, if there are no sides, at a corresponding location on both outboard sides of the foredeck of the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft. The number assigned must read from left to right in Arabic numerals and block characters of good proportion at least 3 inches tall excluding border or trim of a color that contrasts with the color of the background and be so maintained as to be clearly visible and legible. The number may not be placed on the obscured underside of the flared bow where it cannot be easily seen from another vessel or ashore. Numerals, letters, or devices other than those used in connection with the identifying number issued may not be placed in the proximity of the identifying number. Numerals, letters, or devices that might interfere with the ready identification of the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft by its identifying number may not be carried in a manner that interferes with the motorboat's, sailboat's, or personal watercraft's identification. A number other than the number assigned to a motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft or granted reciprocity under this part may not be painted, attached, or otherwise displayed on either side of the forward half of the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft. A registration decal

issued under this part must be placed next to the identifying number located on the left side of a motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft or, if there are no sides, at the corresponding location on the left outboard side of the foredeck of the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft.

- (b) The certificate of number must be pocket size and available to federal, state, or local law enforcement officers at all reasonable times for inspection on the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft whenever the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft is on waters of this state.
- (c) Boat liveries are not required to have the certificate of number on board each motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft, but a rental agreement must be carried on board livery motorboats, sailboats, or personal watercraft in place of the certificate of number.
- (9) Fees, other than the fee in lieu of tax, collected under this section must be transmitted to the department of revenue, as provided in 15-1-504, for deposit in the state general fund.
- (10) An owner of a motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft shall within a reasonable time notify the department of justice, giving the motorboat's, sailboat's, or personal watercraft's identifying number and the owner's name if the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft is transferred, lost, destroyed, or abandoned or within 60 days after a change of the state of principal use or if a motorboat becomes documented as a vessel of the United States."

Section 3. Section 23-2-515, MCA, is amended to read:

"23-2-515. Registration decal to be displayed. (1) A Montana motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft numbered in accordance with the provisions of 23-2-512 or 23-2-513 must display a registration decal. For this purpose the county treasurer, upon proof of payment of the fee in lieu of tax as required by 15-16-202 for motorboats 10 feet in length or longer, sailboats 12 feet in length or longer, or personal watercraft, shall issue a registration decal prepared and furnished by the department of justice with all new certificates of number and, if applicable, all renewals of the certificates of number.

- (2) (a) The registration decal must be of a style and design prescribed by the department of justice.
- (b) The registration decal must be serially numbered <u>and have printed on it either an expiration date</u> of December 31 of the appropriate year or that it is a permanent registration decal.
- (c) The Permanent registration decals issued for a motorboat or sailboat do not expire while the motorboat or sailboat remains in the same ownership.
 - (3) A registration decal must be displayed on the left side of the forward half, 3 inches aft of the



1 identifying numbers."

Section 4. Section 23-2-516, MCA, is amended to read:

"23-2-516. Fee in lieu of tax for motorboats 10 feet in length or longer, sailboats 12 feet in length or longer, personal watercraft, and motorized pontoons. (1) (a) There is a fee in lieu of property tax as prescribed in 23-2-517 imposed on motorboats 10 feet in length or longer, sailboats 12 feet in length or longer, personal watercraft, and motorized pontoons.

- (b) The fee is in addition to the fee required by 23-2-512 for filing of the application for a certificate of number and is may be paid for a 1-year or 2-year period or may be paid as a one-time fee.
- (2) The fee imposed by subsection (1) need not be paid by a dealer for motorboats, sailboats, personal watercraft, or motorized pontoons that constitute inventory of the dealership."

- **Section 5.** Section 23-2-517, MCA, is amended to read:
- "23-2-517. Fees for motorboats, sailboats, personal watercraft, and motorized pontoons. (1) The owner of a motorboat 10 feet in length or longer, a sailboat 12 feet in length or longer, a personal watercraft, or a motorized pontoon shall pay a fee as follows:
- (a) Regardless of the vessel's age, the fee for a motorboat at least 10 feet in length but less than 16 feet in length, a sailboat at least 12 feet in length but less than 16 feet in length, a personal watercraft less than 16 feet in length, or a motorized pontoon less than 16 feet in length is \$25 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent \$10 a year; or \$50 and, except as provided in subsection (2), is as a one-time fee.
- (b) Regardless of the vessel's age, the fee for a motorboat or sailboat at least 16 feet in length but less than 19 feet in length, a personal watercraft 16 feet in length or longer, or a motorized pontoon 16 feet in length or longer is \$55 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent \$22 a year; or \$110 and, except as provided in subsection (2), is as a one-time fee.
- (c) The fee schedule for a motorboat or sailboat 19 feet in length or longer is \$140 in calendar year 2004 and, except as provided in subsection (2), in each subsequent \$56 a year, or \$280 as a one-time fee.
- (2) Whenever a transfer of ownership of a vessel described in subsection (1) occurs, the for which a one-time fee was paid, fees required under subsection (1) must be paid by the new owner."

Section 6. Section 23-2-616, MCA, is amended to read:



1 "23-2-616. Registration and registration decal -- application and issuance -- use of certain fees.

(1) Except for a snowmobile registered under 23-2-621, a snowmobile may not be operated on public lands by any person unless it has been registered and a registration decal is displayed in a conspicuous place on the left side of the cowl.

- (2) (a) A Montana resident who owns a snowmobile operated on public land shall register the snowmobile at the county treasurer's office in the county where the owner resides. The owner may register the snowmobile for 1 or 2 years or on a one-time basis.
 - (b) A county treasurer shall register a snowmobile if:
- (i) as of the date that the snowmobile is to be registered, the owner delivers or has delivered an application for a certificate of title to the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer; or
- (ii) the county treasurer has confirmed that the department of justice has an electronic record of title for the snowmobile as provided in 61-3-101.
- (c) To register a snowmobile, the county treasurer shall update the electronic record of title maintained by the department of justice, by entering the fees paid and recording any changes to the record.
- (3) The owner registering a snowmobile shall pay a registration fee of \$6.50 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent a year, or \$20.50 for a one-time registration and, if the snowmobile has previously been registered, show the county treasurer the registration receipt for the most recent year in which the snowmobile was registered. Upon payment of the proper fees, including the fee in lieu of tax, the treasurer shall issue a registration receipt that contains information considered necessary by the department of justice and a listing of fees paid. The owner shall retain possession of the registration receipt until it is surrendered to the county treasurer upon reregistration or to a purchaser or subsequent owner pursuant to a transfer of ownership.
- (4) The county treasurer shall forward the application to the department of justice and shall issue to the applicant a registration decal in the style and design prescribed by the department of justice.
- (5) The county treasurer may not register a snowmobile under this section unless the applicant has paid the registration fee and the fee in lieu of property tax on the snowmobile as required by 15-16-202.
- (6) All money collected from payment of registration fees and all interest accruing from use of this money must be forwarded to the department of revenue, as provided in 15-1-504, for deposit in the state general fund.
- (7) The county treasurer shall credit all fees in lieu of tax collected on snowmobiles to the state generalfund.



(8) The If the fee imposed paid in subsection (3) is a one-time fee, except on change of ownership.

When when ownership of the snowmobile changes, the new owner shall pay the a fee as provided in subsection (3)."

- **Section 7.** Section 23-2-626, MCA, is amended to read:
- "23-2-626. One-time fee Fee in lieu of tax on snowmobiles -- exception. (1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), there is a one-time fee in lieu of tax on snowmobiles of \$20 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$10 a year or \$40 for a one-time fee.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (3), whenever a transfer of ownership of a snowmobile occurs, the The yearly fee required under subsection (1) must may be paid by the new owner for either 1 or 2 years or on a one-time basis. The one-time fee expires when the ownership of the snowmobile is transferred.
 - (3) The fee need not be paid by a dealer for snowmobiles that constitute inventory of the dealership.
- (4) A snowmobile that is licensed by a Montana business and that is owned exclusively for the purpose of daily rental to customers is assessed:
 - (a) a 1-year fee in lieu of tax of \$20 \$10 in the first year of registration; and
- (b) if the business reregisters the snowmobile for a second year, the fee in lieu of tax imposed in subsection (1)."

- Section 8. Section 23-2-803, MCA, is amended to read:
- "23-2-803. One-time fee Fee in lieu of tax on off-highway vehicles -- exception -- disposition of fees. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), there is a one-time fee in lieu of tax on off-highway vehicles, other than off-highway vehicles constituting the inventory of a dealership licensed under 23-2-818, to be paid to the county treasurer of the county in which the owner of the off-highway vehicle resides. The one-time fee for an off-highway vehicle is \$20 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$10 a year or \$40 for a one-time fee.
- (2) Whenever a transfer of ownership of an off-highway vehicle occurs, the one-time <u>The</u> fee required under subsection (1) must may be paid by the new owner for either 1 or 2 years or on a one-time basis. A one-time fee expires when ownership of the off-highway vehicle is transferred.
- (3) The county treasurer shall transfer all fees in lieu of tax collected on off-highway vehicles pursuant to this section to the state general fund."



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- **Section 9.** Section 23-2-817, MCA, is amended to read:
- "23-2-817. Registration fee -- application and issuance -- disposition. (1) Each off-highway vehicle
 is subject to a registration fee of \$2.
 - (2) The county treasurer shall collect the fee when the fee in lieu of tax is collected.
 - (3) Application for registration must be made to the county treasurer of the county in which the owner resides, on a form furnished by the department of justice for that purpose. The application must contain:
 - (a) the name and home mailing address of the owner;
- 9 (b) the certificate of title number;
 - (c) the name of the manufacturer of the off-highway vehicle;
- 11 (d) the model number or name;
- 12 (e) the year of manufacture;
- 13 (f) whether the owner is registering for 1 year or 2 years or on a one-time basis;
- (f)(g) a statement evidencing payment of the appropriate amount of the fee in lieu of property tax; and (a)(h) other information that the department of justice may require.
 - (4) If the off-highway vehicle was previously registered, the application must be accompanied by the registration certificate for the most recent year in which it was registered. Upon payment of the registration fee, the county treasurer shall sign the application and issue a registration receipt containing the information considered necessary by the department of justice and a listing of the fees paid. The owner shall retain possession of the registration receipt until it is surrendered to the county treasurer <u>for reregistration</u> or to a purchaser or subsequent owner pursuant to a transfer of ownership.
 - (5) All registration fees collected must be forwarded to the department of justice and deposited in the state general fund."

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- **Section 10.** Section 61-3-303, MCA, is amended to read:
- "61-3-303. Registration -- process -- fees. (1) A Montana resident who owns a motor vehicle operated or driven upon the public highways of this state shall register the motor vehicle in the office of the county treasurer in the county where the owner permanently resides or, if the vehicle is owned by a corporation or used primarily for commercial purposes, in the county where the vehicle is permanently assigned.
 - (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3), the county treasurer shall register any vehicle for which:



(i) as of the date that the vehicle is to be registered, the owner delivers an application for a certificate of title to the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer; or

- (ii) the county treasurer confirms that the department has an electronic record of title for the vehicle as provided under 61-3-101.
 - (b) To register a vehicle, the county treasurer shall update the electronic record of title maintained by the department under 61-3-101 by entering the fees paid and recording any changes to the recorded data.
 - (3) (a) A county treasurer shall register a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title and registration were issued in another jurisdiction and for which registration is required under 61-3-701 after the county treasurer examines the current out-of-jurisdiction registration certificate or receipt and receives payment of the fees required in 61-3-701. The county treasurer may ask the vehicle owner to provide additional information, prescribed by the department, to ensure that the electronic record of registration maintained by the department is complete.
 - (b) A county treasurer may register a motor vehicle for which the new owner cannot present the previously issued certificate of title only as authorized by the department under 61-3-342.
 - (4) The department or the county treasurer shall determine the amount of fees, including local option taxes or fees, to be collected at the time of registration for each light vehicle subject to a registration fee under 61-3-560 through 61-3-562 and for each bus, truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractor subject to a fee in lieu of tax under 61-3-529. The county treasurer shall collect the registration fee, other appropriate fees, and local option taxes or fees, if applicable, on each motor vehicle at the time of its registration.
 - (5) A person who seeks to register a motor vehicle, except a mobile home or a manufactured home as those terms are defined in 15-1-101(1), shall pay to the county treasurer:
 - (a) the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-311 and 61-3-321 or 61-3-456;
 - (b) except as provided in 61-3-456 or unless it has been previously paid, the motor vehicle fees in lieu of tax or registration fees under 61-3-560 through 61-3-562 imposed against the vehicle for the current year of registration and the immediately previous year; and
 - (c) a donation of \$1 or more if the person has indicated on the application that the person wishes to donate to promote awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations in Montana to favorably impact anatomical gifts; and
 - (d) a donation of \$1 or more if the person has indicated on the application that the person wishes to



- donate to promote education on, support for, and awareness of traumatic brain injury.
 - (6) The county treasurer may not issue a registration receipt or license plates for the vehicle to the owner unless the owner makes the payments required by subsection (5). Except as provided in 61-3-560 through 61-3-562, the department may not assess or impose and the county treasurer may not collect taxes or fees for a period other than:
 - (a) the current year; and

- (b) except as provided in subsection (9), the immediately preceding year if the vehicle was not registered or operated on the highways of the state, regardless of the period of time since the vehicle was previously registered or operated.
- (7) The department may make full and complete investigation of the registration status of the vehicle. A person seeking to register a motor vehicle under this section shall provide additional information to support the registration to the department if requested.
- (8) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (5)(c) must be forwarded by the respective county treasurer to the department of revenue for deposit in the state special revenue fund to the credit of an account established by the department of public health and human services to support activities related to awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations for anatomical gifts.
- (9) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), the fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees imposed on or collected from the registration of a travel trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle or a trailer, pole trailer, or semitrailer that has a declared weight of less than 26,000 pounds are required to be paid only once during the time that the vehicle is owned by the same person who registered the vehicle. Once registered, a vehicle described in this subsection (9)(a) is registered permanently unless ownership of the vehicle is transferred may be paid for either 1 or 2 years or on a one-time basis at the election of the owner.
- (b) A vehicle described in subsection (9)(a) that was registered on a one-time basis is not subject to annual registration and continues to be permanently registered until the Whenever ownership of a the vehicle described in subsection (9)(a) is transferred, the The new owner is required to register the vehicle as if it were being registered for the first time, including paying all of the required fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees.
- (10) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (5)(d) must be forwarded by the respective county treasurer to the department of revenue for deposit in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the account established in 2-15-2218 to support activities related to education regarding prevention of traumatic brain injury."



Section 11. Section 61-3-311, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-3-311. Registration -- annual renewal -- time periods. (1) Registration Except for biennial and one-time registrations, registration must be renewed annually, and registration fees must be paid annually. Except as provided in 61-3-313 through 61-3-316, 61-3-318, 61-3-526, and 61-3-721, all annual and biennial registrations expire on December 31 of the last year in for which they are issued and must be renewed annually upon payment of all required fees to the county treasurer or the department's agent not later than February 15 of each the next year. If the ownership of a motor vehicle is transferred during the registration year, the new owner shall apply for a certificate of title and register the motor vehicle as provided by this chapter.

- (2) The department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer may not renew the registration of a vehicle whose ownership has been transferred and that was originally registered under the provisions of 61-3-342(3) unless:
- (a) the previously issued certificate of title has been surrendered to the department, its authorized agent, or the county treasurer and the process for issuing a certificate of title has been completed; or
- (b) the person to whom ownership of the vehicle has been transferred presents an affidavit and bond in support of the application for a certificate of title as permitted in 61-3-208."

Section 12. Section 61-3-317, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-3-317. New registration required for transferred vehicle -- grace period -- penalty -- display of proof of purchase. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the new owner of a transferred motor vehicle has a grace period of 20 calendar days from the date of purchase to make application for a certificate of title and pay the registration fees, fees in lieu of tax and other fees required by part 5 of this chapter, and local option taxes, if applicable, unless the fees and taxes have been paid for the year or for the 24-month period as provided in 61-3-303(9) or 61-3-315, as if the vehicle were being registered for the first time in that registration year.

- (2) The new owner of a vehicle described in 61-3-303(9) that had been permanently registered shall make application and pay the registration fees, fees in lieu of tax, and other fees required by part 5 of this chapter and local option taxes, if applicable, whether or not the fees and taxes have been paid previously.
- (3) If the motor vehicle was not purchased from a licensed motor vehicle dealer as provided in this chapter, it is not a violation of this chapter or any other law for the purchaser to operate the vehicle upon the



streets and highways of this state without a current registration receipt or registration decal during the 20-day period if at all times during that period, a temporary registration permit, obtained from the county treasurer or a law enforcement officer as authorized by the department, is clearly displayed in the rear window of the motor vehicle or, if a durable placard has been issued for the vehicle, the placard is attached to the rear of the vehicle.

- (4) Registration fees collected under 61-3-321 are not required to be paid when a license plate is transferred under 61-3-335 and this section.
- (5) Failure to make application for a certificate of title within the time provided in this section subjects the purchaser to a penalty of \$10. The penalty must be collected by the county treasurer at the time of registration and is in addition to the fees otherwise provided by law. The penalty must be deposited in the state general fund."

- **Section 13.** Section 61-3-321, MCA, is amended to read:
- "61-3-321. Registration fees of vehicles -- certain vehicles exempt from registration fees -- disposition of fees. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon registration or, if applicable, reregistration of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers, in accordance with this chapter, as follows:
 - (a) light vehicles under 2,850 pounds, \$13.75 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$17;
- (b) trailers with a declared weight of less than 2,500 pounds and semitrailers, \$8.25. For a trailer or semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of the trailer or semitrailer.
 - (c) motor vehicles registered pursuant to 61-3-411 that are:
- 22 (i) 2,850 pounds and over, \$10; and
- 23 (ii) under 2,850 pounds, \$5;
 - (d) off-highway vehicles registered pursuant to 23-2-817, \$9 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent a year, or \$19.25 for a one-time registration. This fee is a A one-time fee, except registration expires upon transfer of ownership of an off-highway vehicle.
 - (e) light vehicles over 2,850 pounds, trucks and buses less than 1 ton, and heavy trucks in excess of 1 ton, \$18.75 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$22;
- 29 (f) logging trucks less than 1 ton, \$23.75;
- 30 (g) motor homes, \$22.25;



(h) motorcycles and quadricycles, \$9.75 <u>a year</u> for a motorcycle or quadricycle with special license plates issued under 61-3-415 and, for <u>a motorcycle or quadricycle under one-time registration all other motorcycles or quadricycles</u>, \$9.75 <u>in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent a year, or \$11.25 for a one-time registration</u>. This fee is a A one-time fee, except upon registration expires on transfer of ownership of a motorcycle or quadricycle.

- (i) trailers and semitrailers between 2,500 and 6,000 pounds, \$11.25. For a trailer or semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of the trailer or semitrailer.
- (j) trailers and semitrailers in excess of 6,000 pounds, other than trailers and semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional registration agreement, \$16.25. For a trailer or semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of the trailer or semitrailer.
- (k) travel trailers, \$11.75. This fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of a travel trailer-;
- (I) recreational vehicles, \$3.50 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$9.75. If the recreational vehicle is a travel trailer, this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of a travel trailer.
- (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), if a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is originally registered 6 months after the time of registration as set by law, the registration fee for the remainder of the year is one-half of the regular fee.
- (b) For a trailer or semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), the applicable fees must be paid regardless of when the fees were last paid or if the fees were paid at all.
- (3) An additional fee of \$5 a year or \$16 under one-time registration for a motorcycle or quadricycle with special license plates issued under 61-3-415 and, for a motorcycle or quadricycle under one-time registration, \$5 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle as a safety fee and must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in 20-25-1002.
- 28 (4) A fee of \$5 for each set of new number plates must be collected when number plates provided for 29 under 61-3-332(2) are issued.
 - (5) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are



1 not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or tractors owned or controlled by the United States of 2 America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in 18-8-202.

- (6) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-562 and subsection (6)(b) of this section, a fee of 25 cents a year for each registration of a vehicle must be collected when a vehicle is registered or reregistered. The revenue derived from this fee must be forwarded by the county treasurer for deposit in the state general fund for transfer to the credit of the senior citizens and persons with disabilities transportation services account provided for in 7-14-112.
 - (b) The following vehicles are not subject to the fee imposed in subsection (6)(a):
- (i) trailers and semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional registration agreement; and
 - (ii) travel trailers, recreational vehicles, and off-highway vehicles registered pursuant to 23-2-817.
- (7) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-562 and subsection (7)(b) of this section, a fee of 50 cents a year for each registration of a vehicle must be collected when a vehicle is registered or reregistered. The county treasurer shall forward revenue derived from this fee to the state for deposit in the general fund.
 - (b) The following vehicles are not subject to the fee:
- (i) trailers and semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional registration agreement;
 - (ii) off-highway vehicles registered pursuant to 23-2-817; and
- (iii) vehicles bearing license plates described in 61-3-458(3)(d).
 - (8) The provisions of this section relating to the payment of registration fees or new number plate fees do not apply when number plates are transferred to a replacement vehicle under 61-3-317, 61-3-332, or 61-3-335.
 - (9) A person eligible for a waiver under 61-3-460 is exempt from the fees required under this section.
 - (10) Except as otherwise provided in this section, revenue collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.
 - (11) (a) Unless a person exercises the option in subsection (11)(b), an additional fee of \$4 must be collected for each light vehicle or truck under 8,001 pounds GVW registered for licensing pursuant to this part. The fee must be deposited in the state general fund to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of state-owned facilities as provided in 15-1-122(3)(c)(vii).
 - (b) A person who registers a light vehicle or truck under 8,001 pounds GVW may, at the time of annual



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1 registration, certify that the person does not intend to use state parks and fishing access sites and may make

- 2 a written election not to pay the additional \$4 fee provided for in subsection (11)(a). If a written election is made,
- 3 the fee may not be collected."

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- **Section 14.** Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:
- 6 **"61-3-332. Number plates.** (1) A motor vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways of Montana 7 must display both front and rear number plates, bearing the distinctive number assigned to the vehicle.
 - (2) In addition to special license plates, collegiate license plates, and generic specialty license plates authorized under this chapter, a separate series of number plates must be issued, in the manner specified, for each of the following vehicle or dealer types:
 - (a) passenger vehicles, including automobiles, vans, and sport utility vehicles;
- 12 (b) motorcycles and quadricycles, bearing the letters "MC" or "CYCLE";
- 13 (c) trucks, bearing the letter "T" or the word "TRUCK":
- 14 (d) trailers, bearing the letters "TR" or the word "TRAILER";
- (e) dealers of new, or new and used, motor vehicles, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letter "D"or the word "DEALER":
- 17 (f) dealers of used motor vehicles only, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letters "UD" or the letter 18 "U" and the word "DEALER";
- (g) dealers of motorcycles or quadricycles, bearing the letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the word"DEALER";
- 21 (h) dealers of trailers or semitrailers, bearing the letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word 22 "DEALER"; and
 - (i) dealers of recreational vehicles, bearing the letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word "DEALER".
 - (3) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-479 and subsections (3)(b), (4)(c), and (4)(d) of this section, all number plates for motor vehicles must be issued for a minimum period of 4 years, bear a distinctive marking, and be furnished by the department. In years when number plates are not issued, the department shall provide a registration decal that must be affixed to the rear license plate of the vehicle.
 - (b) For light vehicles that are permanently registered as provided in 61-3-527 or 61-3-315 and 61-3-562 and vehicles described in 61-3-303(9) that are permanently registered, the department shall provide a distinctive registration decal indicating that the vehicle is permanently registered. The registration decal must be affixed

- 1 to the rear license plate of the permanently registered vehicle.
- 2 (4) (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall create a new design for number plates as provided in this section, and it shall manufacture the newly designed number plates for issuance after December 31, 2005, to replace at renewal, as required in 61-3-312 and 61-3-314, number plates that were displayed on motor vehicles before that date.
 - (b) Beginning January 1, 2006, the department shall manufacture and issue new number plates after the existing plates have been used for a minimum period of 4 years.
 - (c) A light vehicle that is registered for a 24-month period, as provided in <u>61-3-303(9)</u>, 61-3-315, and 61-3-560, may display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire 24-month registration period.
 - (d) A light vehicle described in subsection (3)(b) that is permanently registered may display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire period that the vehicle is permanently registered.
 - (5) For passenger vehicles and trucks, plates must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. Except for generic specialty license plates, the outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border on the license plates, and the word "Montana" must be placed on each plate. Registration plates must be treated with a reflectorized background material according to specifications prescribed by the department.
 - (6) The distinctive registration numbers must begin with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers. Except for special license plates, collegiate license plates, and generic specialty license plates, the distinctive registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.
 - (7) For the use of exempt motor vehicles and motor vehicles that are exempt from the registration fee as provided in 61-3-560(2)(a), in addition to the markings provided in this section, number plates must bear the following distinctive markings:
 - (a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and



a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the department only when the physical condition of numbered plates requires it.

- (b) For vehicles that are owned by the counties, municipalities, and special districts, as defined in 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and that are used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty and for vehicles on loan from the United States government or the state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty, there must be placed on the number plates assigned, in a position that the department may designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles of each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates within each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these number plates are of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition of the number plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the number plates.
- (8) Number plates issued to a passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle may be transferred only to a replacement passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle. A registration fee may not be assessed upon a transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.
- (9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows: Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8; Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera, 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30; Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34; Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38; Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42; Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46; Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson, 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum, 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must be assigned numbers by the department as they are formed, beginning with the number 57.
- (10) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in 61-3-463 and generic specialty license plates authorized in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (6), except that the county number must be replaced by a nonremovable design or decal designating the group or organization to which the applicant belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates, must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the

person who is eligible to receive them, with the registration decal affixed to the rear license plate of the vehicle, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle.

- (11) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability. If the vehicle to which the license plate is attached is permanently registered, the owner of the vehicle shall maintain evidence of continued eligibility to use the license plate, which must be attached to the registration document in the vehicle.
- (12) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is registered as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733."

- Section 15. Section 61-3-523, MCA, is amended to read:
- "61-3-523. One-time fee Fee for travel trailers. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the fee imposed by 61-3-521 on a travel trailer is a one-time fee and is:
 - (a) for a travel trailer under 16 feet in length, \$25 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent \$12 a year, or \$50 for a one-time fee; and
 - (b) for a travel trailer 16 feet in length or longer, \$65 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent \$33 a year, or \$130 for a one-time fee.
 - (2) Except as provided in subsection (3), whenever The fee may be paid for 1 year, 2 years, or on a one-time basis. If the fee is paid on a one-time basis, when a transfer of ownership of a travel trailer occurs, the one-time a fee required under subsection (1) must be paid by the new owner.
 - (3) The fee need not be paid by a dealer for travel trailers that constitute inventory of the dealership."

- **Section 16.** Section 61-3-526, MCA, is amended to read:
- "61-3-526. Registration of motor homes and travel trailers -- reregistration by mail allowed. (1) Except for a motor home displaying amateur radio operator license plates as provided in 61-3-421, all registrations of motor homes expire annually on April 30. Application for registration or reregistration must be made to the county treasurer not later than June 15. Reregistration may be made by mail in the manner provided in 61-3-535. If the ownership of a motor home is transferred during the registration year, it must be reregistered as provided by statute.
 - (2) The owner of a motor home registered under the provisions of this section may operate the vehicle



between May 1 and June 15 without displaying the certificate of registration of the current registration year if the
 owner, during that period, displays upon the motor home the number plates or plate or the registration decal
 assigned to the motor home for the previous registration year.

- (3) A travel trailer that is initially registered on a one-time basis under this chapter remains registered unless ownership of the travel trailer is transferred. If ownership is transferred, the new owner shall register the travel trailer as if the travel trailer were being registered for the first time.
- (4) The department shall adopt rules to assign a registration period for motor homes that display amateur radio operator license plates."

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- Section 17. Section 61-3-527, MCA, is amended to read:
- "61-3-527. One-time fee Fee in lieu of tax for motorcycles and quadricycles -- permanent registration. (1) (a) There is a one-time fee in lieu of property tax of \$20 \$10 in calendar a year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, or \$40 for a one-time fee imposed on motorcycles and quadricycles that are subject to one-time registration other than those with special license plates subject to the fee in subsection (2). The fee is in addition to registration fees.
- (b) The fee imposed by subsection (1)(a) is not required to be paid by a dealer for motorcycles or quadricycles that constitute inventory of the dealership.
- (2) The owner of a motorcycle or quadricycle with special license plates issued under 61-3-415 shall pay an annual fee based on the age of the motorcycle or quadricycle and the size of the engine, according to the following schedule:
- (a) The fee schedule for a motorcycle or quadricycle with an engine that measures from 1 cubic centimeter to 600 cubic centimeters is as follows:
- 23 (i) less than 5 years old, \$30;
- 24 (ii) 5 years old but less than 11 years old, \$15; and
- 25 (iii) 11 years old and older, \$6.
- 26 (b) The fee schedule for a motorcycle or quadricycle with an engine that measures from 601 cubic centimeters to 1,000 cubic centimeters is as follows:
- 28 (i) less than 5 years old, \$55;
- 29 (ii) 5 years old but less than 11 years old, \$20; and
- 30 (iii) 11 years old and older, \$6.



(c) The fee schedule for a motorcycle or quadricycle with an engine that measures 1,001 cubic centimeters and larger is as follows:

3 (i) less than 5 years old, \$90;

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- 4 (ii) 5 years old but less than 11 years old, \$50; and
- 5 (iii) 11 years old and older, \$6.
 - (3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the age of a motorcycle or quadricycle is determined by subtracting the manufacturer's designated model year from the current calendar year.
 - (b) If the purchase year of a motorcycle or quadricycle precedes the designated model year of the motorcycle or quadricycle and the motorcycle or quadricycle is originally titled in Montana, then the purchase year is considered the model year for the purposes of calculating the fee in lieu of tax.
 - (4) A person who registers a motorcycle or quadricycle as provided in this section shall pay an additional one-time fee of \$1.25 at the time of registration for deposit in the state general fund. The department shall pay from the general fund an amount equal to the \$1.25 fee collected under this subsection from each vehicle registration to the pension trust fund for payment of supplemental benefits provided for in 19-6-709.
 - (5) Whenever a transfer of ownership of a motorcycle or quadricycle occurs, the with the fees paid on a one-time fees required basis under this section occurs, annual or one-time fees must be paid by the new owner. (Subsection (4) terminates on occurrence of contingency--sec. 24, Ch. 191, L. 2001.)"

19 NEW SECTION. Section 18. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2006.

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